

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

HONORING MR. WILLIE “SONNY BOY” WILLIAMSON

HON. BENNIE G. THOMPSON

OF MISSISSIPPI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, October 19, 2012

Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor a blues musician and legend of the Mississippi Delta, Mr. Willie “Sonny Boy” Williamson.

Mr. Speaker, the “Blues” is not just a song, it’s a story about hard times and frustration put to musical rhymes and rhythms; it’s a means to an end. The Blues was influenced by field hollers, religious hymns of hope, and even dance. So let me share a blues story with you through the life of Mr. Willie “Sonny Boy” Williamson.

If you happen to hear the names, Alex “Rice” Miller, Sonny Boy Williamson number 2, Sonny Boy Williamson the second, Willie Miller, Sonny Boy Miller, or Little Boy Blue, just know that it’s the same Willie “Sonny Boy” Williamson of Tallahatchie County, Mississippi. His birth given name however, is Alex Miller. There are different reports circulating about when Sonny Boy was born. The dates in question are 1897, December 5, 1899, March 11, 1908, and December 5, 1912. He was born on the Sara Jones Plantation near Glendora, Mississippi. Nevertheless, it was not until 1941 that he began to assume the name of “Sonny Boy” Williamson when Max Moore, owner of Interstate Grocer Company’s King Biscuit Flour business, started calling him by that name in order to promote the show.

Although researchers and historians alike have debated important dates and events surrounding his life, one thing they all agree upon is that he is a son of the Mississippi Delta blues, a self taught harmonica player, and a legendary blues singer and song writer. He began playing the guitar and harmonica at the early age of five. Sonny Boy’s stepfather and mother, Jim and Millie Miller, never discouraged him from playing his blues music or his instruments.

Mississippi was a very implacable place for blacks in the 1900s with the Great Depression, the Civil Rights Movement, efforts to pass life changing legislations, and when cotton pickers were paid about forty cents a day per one hundred pounds of cotton picked. The blues music was filled with lyrics about those times, bad luck, hope, and memories experienced or seen by the blues artist. Unrelenting beats accompanied the lyrics of the songs as the artist told their story.

In the early 1920’s, Sonny Boy was a young man struggling to make a living, so he started performing in juke joints and night clubs throughout Mississippi and Arkansas under the name of Little Boy Blue. The pay was very meager or sometimes there was no pay at all. By the 1930s he left a life of sharecropping and cotton picking in Tallahatchie County and

started becoming a familiar voice and blues artist on the local circuits. He played on the street corners, at church socials, fish fry’s, and anywhere he could attract a crowd, sometimes getting paid. Sonny Boy made friends with other blues artists like Big Joe Williams, Elmore James, Joe Willie “Pinetop” Perkins, Robert Lockwood, Jr., and Robert Johnson. He was always looking for ways to entertain besides just singing, so he started doing what some might call impossible until they saw him do it—he would put his entire harmonica in his mouth and play it with no hands, wow, what a talent.

The 1940s was just as entertaining and by now, Sonny Boy’s blues future was beginning to take shape. In 1941 he was hired to play on the King Biscuit Time show where he did advertisement for King Biscuit Flour on a radio station (KFFA) in Helena, Arkansas. The sponsors thought he would be perfect to advertise King Biscuit Flour to the black audience King Biscuit wanted to reach. He partnered with fellow blues artist Robert Lockwood for this gig and they became known as the King Biscuit Boys. The show was limited in range, only reaching an audience within about a 50 miles radius. As a result, he quietly started doing radio shows in Little Rock Arkansas, and Belzoni, Mississippi, outside of the range of KFFA. Then in the late 1940s KFFA extended its listening audience through WROX in Clarksdale, Mississippi in the late 1940s, which was far enough for Sonny Boy to reach the ears of young Riley King, known as B.B. King, over in Indianola, Mississippi. On Saturdays, the KFFA King Biscuit Entertainers would visit grocery stores performing on King Biscuit’s flatbed truck throughout Northern Mississippi delta towns like Sardis and Clarksdale. In 1944, his picture appeared on Sonny Boy Corn Meal and he became a household name.

Sonny Boy figured out he had a knack for the radio and he could make money doing it. So, he started his own KWEM radio show in 1948 until 1950. He moved to West Memphis, Arkansas in 1949 to live with his sister and her husband, Howlin’ Wolf; another blues legend from White Station, Mississippi. This was his golden opportunity where he brought along other struggling great blues artists before they were greats. These were friends like James Cotton, Houston Stackhouse, Elmore James, B.B. King, Arthur “Big Boy” Crudup, Robert Nighthawk and others to perform on the show.

Sonny Boy finally got to record one of his many stories about the blues; it came in 1951 with his first single on Trumpet Records titled “Eyesight to the Blind,” where he was singing about a woman. Using the word “good” to describe him was not good enough; people often said that with this song he could make a blind man think he could see her. He was the primary artist for Trumpet Records. Henry and Lillian McMurry in Jackson, Mississippi were the owners. In 1955, he began recording for Chess Records in Chicago, Illinois after Trumpet Records went bankrupt. His years at

Chess Records were his most successful in his career as a blues artist. In fact, he recorded about 70 songs from 1955 to 1964 for Checker Records, a subsidiary of Chess Records. In 1959 he finally got the opportunity to record a compilation of stories about the blues with his first LP record titled Down and Out Blues. It featured such hits as Dissatisfied, Your Funeral and My Trial, Don’t Start Me to Talkin, and All My Love in Vain.

In the 1960s, he toured Europe several times during the height of the British blues excitement; having much influence on the Blues music he recorded with The Yardbirds, Eric Clapton, guitarist Jimmy Page, The Animals, and even Mississippi Slim of Greenville. In the summer of 1964, he did a BBC TV show with jazz musician Chris Barber. He also recorded with Roland Kirk, another jazz musician, who could play three horns at the same time. It was reported in the Led Zeppelin biography that while in England, Sonny Boy accidentally set his hotel room on fire while trying to cook a rabbit in a coffee percolator.

Home sick for the Mississippi Delta area, the local blues circuit he started on, to see old friends, down home cooking and living, to hang out with new corners to the blues scene, and to play on KFFA again—all beginnings he wanted cash in for better endings, Willie “Sonny Boy” Williamson returned to Helena, Arkansas to live until his death in June 1965 from a heart attack. Sonny Boy Williamson was born on the Sara Jones Plantation near Glendora, Mississippi and buried on New Africa Road just outside of Tutwiler, Mississippi at the site of the former Whitman Chapel Cemetery. These towns are approximately 15 miles apart. His headstone was paid for and donated by Mrs. Lillian McMurray, owner of Trumpet Records, another one of his beginnings.

Over the course of Sonny Boy Williamson’s career, he recorded over 150 songs, from 1951 and 1965. He wrote and composed most of his own songs, many of which were recorded more than once. A musical prodigy in his own rights and style, he was able to make each performance unique and different through impromptu styles of arrangements, tempos and lyrics.

Sonny Boy Williamson may have been characterized by a hip flask, British bowler sit’n high on his head cocked to the side, tailored made two-tone suits, a foul mouth, fast women, short tempered, and a grey goateed image, but don’t forget about the characterization of his musical ability. He was highly original with his own signature harmonica style and vocal gift for moaning out a rich blues saga. Just as I stated earlier, there is no doubt about it, he had the blues.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing Mr. Willie “Sonny Boy” Williamson, a world renowned blues legend and artist from the Mississippi Delta. He is truly worthy to be recognized.

• This “bullet” symbol identifies statements or insertions which are not spoken by a Member of the Senate on the floor.

Matter set in this typeface indicates words inserted or appended, rather than spoken, by a Member of the House on the floor.

MR. MARSHALL S. JACOBSON, ESQ.
AND MRS. APRIL JACOBSON

HON. LOU BARLETTA

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, October 19, 2012

Mr. BARLETTA. Mr. Speaker, I rise to honor Mr. Marshall S. Jacobson, Esq. and Mrs. April Jacobson, who are being honored by Temple B'nai B'rith for their service to the temple and the community.

Mr. and Mrs. Jacobson have served as exemplary community leaders. Mr. Jacobson has been affiliated with the Wilkes-Barre law firm of Rosenn, Jenkins, and Greenwald since 1968 and became a partner in 1973. They have three sons and four grandchildren.

Mr. Jacobson earned his bachelor's degree in 1959 from the Pennsylvania State University and his law degree from the Dickinson School of Law in 1962. Mr. and Mrs. Jacobson first met while they were employed by the Internal Revenue Service in Washington, DC. They married in 1966 and relocated to the Wilkes-Barre area in 1968.

Mr. Jacobson has had a distinguished career serving individual, corporate, charitable, and non-profit clients for over 40 years. He is dedicated to his community and has served as a member, officer, and director of numerous organizations including Temple B'nai B'rith, Temple Apartments, United Cerebral Palsy, Salvation Army, St. Vincent de Paul Kitchen, and Kiwanis Club of Mountain Top.

Furthermore, Mr. and Mrs. Jacobson are both deeply admired for their strong faith and continual devotion to family. Together, they have served our community loyally.

Mr. Speaker, today, Mr. Marshall S. Jacobson, Esq. and Mrs. April Jacobson stand as leaders in Northeastern Pennsylvania. I commend them for their years of admirable service to our community and country, and I wish them continued success in the future.

CELEBRATING THE 50TH ANNIVERSARY OF SOLOMON SCHECHTER DAY SCHOOL OF METROPOLITAN CHICAGO

HON. JANICE D. SCHAKOWSKY

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, October 19, 2012

Ms. SCHAKOWSKY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Solomon Schechter Day School of Metropolitan Chicago, on the occasion of the school's 50th anniversary.

For five decades, Solomon Schechter Day School has served Jewish children and families in the Chicago area, integrating Judaic studies with general education. Founded in 1962, the school was founded with the vision of helping students understand their Jewish and American lives as an integrated whole. Solomon Schechter Day School continues to provide an extended community where students and families are encouraged to explore their Jewish identity in a positive environment.

From the first 27 students who enrolled in 1962, more than 2,500 graduates of Solomon Schechter have gone on to play leading roles throughout the Chicago area and across the world. The school currently serves 550 chil-

dren from 30 communities in the Chicago area. Today, Solomon Schechter Day School of Metropolitan Chicago is a pre-kindergarten through eighth grade Jewish day school, with an Early Childhood Center located in Skokie, and a K-8 school in Northbrook. Students at Solomon Schechter Day School attend over 40 synagogues, and come from families with roots in the United States, Israel, Chile, Argentina, Russia, Ethiopia, and more.

As a member of Congress, it has been my privilege to welcome Solomon Schechter students to Washington for many years. I have been consistently impressed by the maturity, knowledge, and inquisitive spirit of the students I have met. They are students who want to make a difference in their community, their country and the world. Solomon Schechter Day School gives them the education, support, and resources to do so.

For fifty years, Solomon Schechter Day School has empowered students to think critically, while also teaching them to live Jewish values and honor timeless traditions. It is my great privilege to join the Solomon Schechter Day School community in celebrating the fifty years of serving Jewish students and families in the Chicago area, and I look forward to many exciting years to come.

HONORING MRS. BERNITA "BERT" DIXON

HON. BENNIE G. THOMPSON

OF MISSISSIPPI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, October 19, 2012

Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor a woman with an angelic voice, Bernita "Bert" Dixon.

Bernita Dixon is a lifelong resident of Copiah County, Mississippi. She was born on October 14, 1952 in Georgetown, Mississippi to the late Rev. Earl Carver Dixon and Lena Mae Cathchings Dixon. She graduated from Holtzclaw Memorial High School in Crystal Springs, Mississippi. Bernita attended Utica Junior College in Utica, Mississippi where she majored in Pre-Nursing.

She began singing at the early age of five. She would often sing at church, in the cotton field and any other place people would listen. She quickly became known for her strong voice. However, her stardom came with a price. She started to get tired of everyone wanting her to sing, so she blurted out; "I'm tired of always having to sing". Shortly thereafter Bernita was diagnosed with laryngitis and couldn't talk. She then prayed "Lord, please give me back my voice, I will sing for you for the rest of my life". Her voice returned more powerful and deeper than before. Later her brother decided to form a singing group with her and the rest of their siblings, "The Dixon Singers". The Dixon Singers have performed with several nationally known artists. Also, the Dixon Singers were the first group to ever record a double volume live album in the state of Mississippi.

Bernita is married to Gene Robinson. She is the mother of three, Derrick, Kenmantel and the late Ronrico. Bernita has worked as the Office Manager at Dixon Body & Auto Sales, Inc. in Hazlehurst, Mississippi since 1993. She is a member of New Hope M. B. Church in Georgetown, Mississippi.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing Mrs. Bernita "Bert" Dixon for her dedication and desire to share her voice with us.

HONORING JOHN GREENWOOD

HON. JANICE HAHN

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, October 19, 2012

Ms. HAHN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the memory of John Greenwood who died on October 11, 2012 at the age of 67. Born on January 9, 1945, John earned a bachelor's degree in Mathematics and Political Science from the University of California, Riverside, and a master's degree in Political Science from the University of Michigan. John had a 45-year career as an educator and civic leader in the South Bay and Harbor Area. John was first elected to the Los Angeles Unified School District (LAUSD) Board of Education in 1979, where he served for eight years as both a member and its president advocating for quality education.

Long active in community affairs, John served as Chair of the City of Los Angeles Citizens' Oversight Commission for Proposition Q managing a \$650 million Fire and Police renovation program and was the founding President and a board member of the Northwest San Pedro Neighborhood Council. Several years ago, while on the Los Angeles City Council, I had the pleasure to appoint John to head up a task force charged with studying the Ponte Vista housing development. He was the founder and later served as President of the Gang Alternatives Program that strives to enhance the lives of the young people in our community. John served on the boards of numerous community organizations including the San Pedro Boys and Girls Club, the San Pedro Rotary Club, and as Vice President of the Board of Directors of Angels Gate Cultural Center.

At the time of his death, John was President of Coro Southern California. His involvement in Coro spanned more than 40 years. Through the years, John received many awards. He was particularly pleased to be honored as Community Builder by Habitat for Humanity and to receive the Founders Award from the Southern California Leadership Network.

John is survived by his wife, Caren and daughter, Liz, and his brother Roger (Peggy) Greenwood, sister Marilyn (Savin) Ungaro, sister Kathy (Tom) Jefferies, mother-in-law Martha Matthews, sister-in-law Darlene Allenthrop. I consider myself incredibly lucky to have known John and to have considered him a close friend.

IN RECOGNITION OF THE LONG BRANCH FREE PUBLIC LIBRARY CHAMPIONS

HON. FRANK PALLONE, JR.

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, October 19, 2012

Mr. PALLONE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the five individuals being honored by the Long Branch Free Public Library on the

occasion of its Champions Dinner. A Library Champion is committed to the success of the library. They frequent programs held by the library, encourage others to visit and use the library, and are concerned about issues that may affect the library. Mr. John Pallone, Mr. John (Jack) Kearns, Ms. Marsha Cohen, Mr. Emmanuel Itzol and Miss Ashley Pape are truly deserving of the Library's Champion distinction.

Born and raised in Long Branch, New Jersey, John Pallone is an active member of the Long Branch community. In addition to serving as a Trustee of the Long Branch Free Public Library, John is a member of the Amerigo Vespucci Society and is involved with the Holy Name Society at Christ the King Parish. He is also a Long Branch City Councilman and a board member of the Long Branch Urban Enterprise Zone.

Jack Kearns worked in the telecommunications industry for over 30 years, serving as a Division Manager at AT&T before his retirement. Following his career with AT&T, Mr. Kearns pursued teaching, working as an adjunct professor with Boston University, the University of Colorado at Denver and Georgia Institute of Technology. Mr. Kearns also taught project management programs to manager-level individuals in government and the private sector. Most recently, Mr. Kearns is working as a local news journalist. He is also active in his community, serving as a member of the Long Branch Rotary Club and President of the Board of Trustees of the Long Branch Concordance.

Marsha Cohen and her family have been residents of Elberon, New Jersey for 15 years. In addition to raising her family and working in sales, Ms. Cohen is devoted to the arts. She recently exhibited her paintings at the Elberon Branch of the Long Branch Free Public Library and also offered art classes at the library. In addition to sharing her work with the library patrons, Ms. Cohen frequents the library weekly with her 6 children and 3 grandchildren, passing along her passion for reading.

A lifelong resident of Long Branch, New Jersey and a 2009 graduate of Long Branch High School, Emmanuel Itzol currently attends Brookdale Community College. His love for education is evident in the volunteer opportunities he undertakes with the Long Branch Public Schools and he has carried this passion into college, majoring in Elementary Education. Not only does Mr. Itzol like helping the community through volunteer projects, he also enjoys entertaining them and performs as a DJ at events.

The youngest of the Champions, Ashley Pape is a 7 year old 2nd grader with a love of stories. She is an avid reader and enjoys visiting museums to learn more about the subjects that interest her, including spiders, mummies and Egypt. Ashley also enjoys spending time at the beach and the pool, riding her bicycle, and drawing, among others. She is currently working toward becoming a Brownie within the Girl Scouts organization. Ashley hopes to one day be a scientist and President of the United States.

Mr. Speaker, once again please join me in congratulating John Pallone, Jack Kearns, Marsha Cohen, Emmanuel Itzol and Ashley Pape for their contributions to the Long Branch Free Public Library.

HONORING MR. BOBBY RUSH

HON. BENNIE G. THOMPSON

OF MISSISSIPPI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, October 19, 2012

Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor a philanthropic and blues musician in his own rights, Mr. Bobby Rush, born Emmitt Ellis, Jr.; however he prefers to be called "Bobby Rush" in a one syllable pronunciation. The decision to change his name came simply out of respect for his father, Pastor Emmitt Ellis, Sr.; because Emmitt Ellis, Jr. wanted to be a Blues entertainer.

I could talk only about his career as a Blues artist and leave out the humanitarian side of Bobby Rush but I would be, as my mother used to say "short changing," him. Blues is his "love", but his compassion is people.

Bobby Rush started singing at an early age, around six, when he made his first instrument, a guitar, out of a broom. He started entertaining around ten years old, and formed his first band around age thirteen. Here are three eyebrow raising interesting facts about Bobby Rush. One, with his father being the pastor of perhaps at least two churches, he never sang in the choir but he certainly sang from his seat. Second, although his parents were devout church goers and gospel listeners, they never discouraged Bobby Rush from singing and performing the Blues. And, they never saw him perform but he said, "Every time I went home they had all my music already so I'm sure they kept up with me." And third, in getting started he often would role play himself performing and entertaining. Trying to mimic after other entertainers, he would ask his uncle about who was old enough to visit the clubs and watch them perform. He said he would add his own personal touch, of course.

Many people may not be aware of this but in 1951 he recorded his first song with Chess Records. Not only was he making history at Chess Records with other artists like Bo Diddly, Buddy Guy, Jimmy Rogers, Lowell Fulson, Memphis Slim, and others but he actually broke the color barrier around 1951 or 1952 when he became the first black entertainer to play on Bourbon Street on Chicago's Southside.

As a teenager, in 1953, he moved to Chicago with his family and began performing on the local blues scene. He also formed his own band. But it was in the 1970s when his career really started to take off with his first hit "Chicken Heads" on the Galaxy Record label. Bobby Rush has sold over 259 records on the Southern "Chitlin' Circuit."

Bobby Rush, like all other southern blues artist, could take a life-time telling stories about the highs and lows of his career. I'm sure he can tell you about how he faced racial issues, menial pay, his efforts to break the color barriers while out on tour in order to make a living so he could provide for his family, and even the disparaging work conditions he endured, to say the least.

Nevertheless, this veteran of the Blues has definitely established a name for himself among such great entertainers as, BB King, Howlin' Wolf, Solomon Burke, Ike and Tina Turner, Muddy Waters, Bobby Blue Bland, Etta James, Red Foxx, Otis Rush, Little Milton, Dick Gregory, and Sammy Davis, Jr. And by the way, many of these he performed with

and apprenticed under as well. He has sang in night clubs, at festivals, at charity events, and in concert halls all over the world—Chicago, Cleveland and Clarksdale Mississippi, Detroit, the Kennedy Center, Carnegie Hall, Poland, Japan, China, Arkansas, Louisiana, and Canada just to name a few places—and he is still traveling the world and performing.

In an interview back in the 90s with Stanley Booth, he said, "Until a few years ago, nobody knew I exist. Not really. I'm probably the only one livin' who have did as well as I've done, and nobody know nothin' about me." One of the reasons is because Bobby Rush has always been his own manager, never taking on anyone to manage him, answering his own phone calls, and booking his own shows and then showing up to perform—no imposter there! When I asked him about that comment, he said, "I'm just a Blues singer, I am just I am, the people's Blues singer. I never wanted to get too high where they couldn't reach me but I wanted to be high enough to be able to help them."

After a lifetime of achievement, in April 2000, the Mississippi Senate passed Resolution 43 honoring Bobby Rush for his musical career. Then in 2003, he started his own record label, Deep Rush, on which he cut his CD "*Undercover Lover*" while performing live at club Ground Zero in Clarksdale, Mississippi. He is also the owner of Rush Productions, Inc. Also in 2003, he was featured in Richard Pearce's documentary film "The Road to Memphis," which was part of the Martin Scorsese's film series "The Blues." His awards and recognitions include but are not limited to: *Best Live Performer of the Year*, *Best Blues Entertainer of the Year*, *Best Soul/Blues Album of the Year*, and the *James Brown Heritage Award*.

Mr. Bobby Rush is still breaking barriers in the last decade because he has finally crossed over to white audiences; race is not the face of entertaining any longer but rather—whether or not the artist is good at what he does, and that he is.

Like he said back in the 90s, nobody knew he existed a few years earlier. But, I want to help make sure people know there is more to Bobby Rush than a Blues song. I stated earlier, "Blues is his 'love', but his compassion is people."

Throughout his career, he has met people with circumstances that have reminded him of himself. For example, at one time in his Blues career he was too poor to afford health insurance, so as a result, his wife and three children died of sickle cell anemia. So, because of that he is always giving to support sickle cell anemia research. Blues in the Schools Program is a program he started because he wanted to help the Blues stay alive through our children! You can certainly make a living singing the Blues and be able to help someone in the process. Computers in Schools is another program he supports; once, he donated all the proceeds from an event to buy thousands of dollars worth of computers for West Tallahatchie County School District in Tallahatchie County, MS.

And his humanitarian journey continues. Bobby Rush travels the country putting on a pulse racing—finger popping Annual Red White and Blues Jam for Veterans. He mentors other artists, just like Albert King, Muddy Waters, Howlin' Wolf, and Little Milton took him under their wings and mentored him as a

teenager. And if that's not enough, he is always offering to perform at charity events to help small communities raise money throughout the Delta.

So, after migrating from his birthplace in Homer, Louisiana, after getting an early start on his Blues career when he moved to Chicago in 1953, and recording his first number one hit eighteen years later in 1971, with six decades of singing the Blues, Bobby Rush has settled on his Mississippi roots in Jackson, Mississippi in 1983. His great-grandmother and grandfather were from Jackson, Mississippi. And I am glad to be working on his behalf as well.

When Bobby Rush is not out of state touring or participating in a charity event, you just might catch him performing for fun and entertainment at a local night club somewhere in Mississippi.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing a humanitarian and blues musician from the Second Congressional District of Mississippi, Mr. Bobby Rush.

RECOGNIZING BROOKS ELEMENTARY SCHOOL'S 12TH ANNUAL VETERAN'S DAY PROGRAM

HON. LYNN A. WESTMORELAND

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, October 19, 2012

Mr. WESTMORELAND. Mr. Speaker, I come to the floor today to recognize Brooks Elementary School's 12th annual Veteran's Day Program in Fayette County, Georgia, on November 9, 2012. This is a momentous event for the 3rd district, and I am proud to help honor the service and sacrifice of our nation's brave veterans so that we may live free.

This is the 12th consecutive year that the Brooks Community has invited Veterans to their school to honor their service to our country. The annual program includes a breakfast for these brave men and women and the school uses the occasion to express their gratitude and appreciation. The breakfast is followed by a program presented by the elementary students and the Sandy Creek Color Guard. Lastly, there is a parade with the Veterans and their families around the town of Brooks featuring the Whitewater High School Marching Band.

In the past, more than 120 veterans have attended the program and this year they are expecting even more. This program is a testament of Brooks Elementary School's mission to strive for excellence by creating an environment that is focused on improving academic performance, and providing opportunities that develop responsible citizens and lifelong achievers. I know that this program has taught the students of Brooks Elementary the value of patriotism, which is an essential part of each American's education.

I would like to thank all of our Veterans and the Brooks community that have continually made the Veteran's Day Program a success. It is vital that students everywhere are taught the importance of our history and national service firsthand, like the students of Brooks Element in Fayette County, Georgia.

PLAINS SPORTS HALL OF FAME INDUCTEES

HON. LOU BARLETTA

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, October 19, 2012

Mr. BARLETTA. Mr. Speaker, I rise to honor Paul Gosiewski, James Jesikiewicz, Stephen Krushnowski, Heather Susek, and Alfonso Zangardi for their induction into the Plains Sports Hall of Fame in Northeastern Pennsylvania. The Plains Sports Hall of Fame recognizes local athletes who demonstrate a lifelong commitment to athletics and have excelled in sports both during and after high school and college.

Mr. Gosiewski graduated from Plains Memorial High School in 1957 where he served as a starting guard for the Red Raiders. After graduation, Mr. Gosiewski served in the United States Marine Corps for 12 years and competed as a member of the Marine Corps wrestling team.

Mr. Jesikiewicz graduated from Coughlin High School in 1983 where he was a member of the golf and basketball teams. During his time on the basketball team, James scored 1,069 points and recorded 624 assists for the Crusaders. He was named a Wyoming Valley Conference All Star in 1982 and 1983.

Mr. Krushnowski graduated from Coughlin High School in 1990 where he was a varsity letter-winning member of the football, wrestling, and basketball teams. Mr. Krushnowski continued his wrestling career at Mansfield University and was a three-time place finisher in the NCAA Division II national qualifier.

Ms. Susek graduated from Coughlin High School in 2007 where she was a member of the soccer, track and field, and field hockey teams. As a member of the Syracuse University field hockey team, Heather was selected to the Big East All Conference Team in 2010 and was named Co-Offensive Player of the Year in 2011.

Mr. Zangardi is a graduate of Seton Catholic High School where he participated in golf, basketball, and baseball. As a member of the Plains American Legion baseball team, he received the Rookie of the Year Award in 1995 and the Coach's Award in 1996.

Mr. Speaker, today it is with great pleasure that I commend Paul Gosiewski, James Jesikiewicz, Stephen Krushnowski, Heather Susek, and Alfonso Zangardi as they are inducted into the Plains Sports Hall of Fame.

HONORING MR. FRED FLOWERS

HON. BENNIE G. THOMPSON

OF MISSISSIPPI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, October 19, 2012

Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor a remarkable gospel singer, Fred Flowers. Mr. Flowers was raised in Shelby, Mississippi by his parents Mr. Nathaniel Flowers and Mary Pippins.

Mr. Flowers attended church regularly and sang gospel songs at the request of his grandmother Ms. Mary Hall. Upon graduating from Shelby High School he attended Rust College in Holly Springs, Mississippi where he enjoyed listening to the renowned Rust College

Acapella Choir. It was during this time he developed a love for Acapella singing. After graduating from Rust College with a Bachelor's of Science Degree in Biology, he furthered his education at Coahoma Community College, graduating with a Certificate in Practical Nursing. He also attended Mississippi Delta Community College graduating with an Associate Degree in Nursing, and Delta State University where he received a Bachelor's of Science Degree in Nursing. Mr. Flowers has worked 16 years as an Emergency Nursing specialist. His colleagues tell stories of Fred singing gospel songs to his patients which calms their fears.

After marrying Ms. Kerrin Williams and moving to Ruleville, Mississippi, he joined Delmar Avenue Church of Christ and made a decision that he was going to do more than sing privately in his car, at home or to his patients. Fred began to take the lead role singing church songs. He enjoys singing at church because his singing provides encouragement to the hearts and souls of the congregation. His singing has impacted his four sons, Darrell, Deracius, Fredarian and Justin so much that they enjoy harmonizing with him during their family activities.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing Mr. Fred Flowers as an inspirational gospel singer.

HIGHLY QUALIFIED PROVISION ATTACHED TO H.J. RES. 117, CONTINUING APPROPRIATIONS RESOLUTION OF 2013

HON. RAÚL M. GRIJALVA

OF ARIZONA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, October 19, 2012

Mr. GRIJALVA. Mr. Speaker, I, along with Representative HINOJOSA submit the following: Educational success depends on well-prepared, qualified, and effective teachers, leaders and other support professionals. We believe that establishing and continuing to improve programs that train, develop, and support these professions must be integral in elementary and secondary education.

Unfortunately, we know that in too many states and districts across the country, students with the greatest needs are being taught by teachers with little or no training, including those enrolled in alternative route teacher preparation programs. That is why we are glad H.J. Res. 117 requires the Department of Education to provide to Congress—and the Nation—comprehensive information on the extent to which our highest-need students, including students with disabilities, English learners, students from rural communities, and low-income students, are being taught by teachers-in-training who are enrolled in alternative route programs, disaggregated by state and district, as well as by student subgroups. The data that will be included in this report should be made public and disseminated to parents and other interested parties so that it is understandable and actionable.

Specifically, the provision requires the Secretary of Education to submit a report to Congress by 12/31/13 that provides a comprehensive picture, with state-level and LEA data, on the extent to which the following categories of

students are taught by alternative route teachers-in-training who are deemed "highly qualified" pursuant to 34 CFR 200.56(a)(2)(ii): students with disabilities; English learners; students in rural areas; and students from low-income families.

34 CFR 200.56(a)(2)(ii) is the regulation that allows individuals participating in alternative route programs but who have not yet completed their full state certification to be labeled "highly qualified." This regulation was struck down by the Ninth Circuit in the *Renee v. Duncan* lawsuit but written into statute in the December 2010 CR.

To produce the report required by this legislation, states and LEAs will be required to compile the data that they are already required to have under Section 1111(h)(6)(A) of NCLB regarding the professional qualifications of all their teachers, including: whether the teacher has met State qualification and licensing criteria for the grade levels and subject areas in which the teacher provides instruction; whether the teacher is teaching under emergency or other provisional status through which State qualification or licensing criteria have been waived; and the baccalaureate degree major of the teacher and any other graduate certification or degree held by the teacher, and the field of discipline of the certification or degree.

This data will provide essential information to parents, to educators and to policy makers so that informed decisions can be made to strengthen one of our Nation's most valuable assets, our public schools. We will be in a much better position to look at our neediest students and our neediest rural and urban school districts and determine the extent to which well-prepared teachers are or are not equitably distributed. Mr. Speaker, we look forward to receiving this important report from the Secretary on December 31, 2013.

DEDICATION OF WAR MEMORIAL

HON. FRANK R. WOLF

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, October 19, 2012

Mr. WOLF. Mr. Speaker, on October 13, I attended an event in Leesburg, Virginia dedicating a war memorial to four soldiers who gave their lives in service to their country.

The event would not have been possible without the valuable contributions of event organizer Ben Lawrence, Boy Scout Troop 1910 in Lucketts, Virginia, the Parkview High School Band, the 116th Infantry Brigade of the Virginia Army National Guard, the Veterans of Foreign Wars Post 1177, American Legion Post 34, the Loudoun County Sheriff's office, and Scott Warner, owner of the Downtown Salon.

I have included the full remarks from Colonel John Epperly, commander of the 116th Infantry Brigade, that properly honors the soldiers and Marine honored on the memorial.

Colonel EPPERLY: Congressman Wolf, General Mills, Admiral Kemp, General Forsythe, Honorable Members of the Virginia Legislature, the Loudoun County Board of Supervisors, the Leesburg Town Council, Distinguished Guests and most importantly, families of our Fallen Warriors...Good Morning. On Behalf of the Virginia Army National Guard and the 116th Infantry Brigade Com-

bat Team, it is a profound honor to be with you on this crisp autumn morning in Northern Virginia to pay tribute to our brothers in arms. Loudoun County, Leesburg and the surrounding towns and hamlets have provided Warriors for the defense of the Commonwealth and Nation since the dawn of our Republic.

My own regiment was formed not far from here in 1742 to defend what was then the frontier of the Americas. Since then, men and women from towns like Leesburg, Reston, Purcellville, Sterling, Lovettsville and many more have served in every battle and campaign our nation has fought in. Our generation is no different and today we gather to honor the sacrifice of four extraordinary men who gave the last full measure of devotion in defense of our nation. I'd like to take a moment to introduce you to these men of uncommon valor.

Army Sergeant Scott L. Kirkpatrick fell while serving with the 1st Battalion, 30th Infantry Regiment in the 2nd Brigade Combat Team of the 3rd Infantry Division. Sergeant Kirkpatrick and his fire team were assaulting a sniper position in Arab Jabour, Iraq when he was lost. Scott was doing what Infantry NCOs do best. He was leading his men from the front in one of the most dangerous places in Iraq. But who was he? Well Sergeant Kirkpatrick was many things. He was a poet, a writer and a leader of men. Indeed, Sergeant Kirkpatrick was a Renaissance Man who felt strongly that his country needed him after the 9-11 attacks. When he fell, he was on his second combat tour in Iraq and he had already become what many aspire to be in this life. Sergeant Kirkpatrick, the Warrior Poet, had earned the undying respect of his fellow warriors, the gratitude of his community and the love of his family. Today we honor a life well lived. Sergeant Kirkpatrick's decorations include the Bronze Star, the Purple Heart and the Combat Infantryman's Badge.

Army Specialist Stephan L. Mace fell while serving with the 3rd Squadron, 61st Cavalry Regiment in the 4th Brigade Combat Team of the 4th Infantry Division. Specialist Mace and his platoon were fighting a savage defensive action to hold Combat Outpost Bostick in Kamdesh, Afghanistan when he was lost. Stephan's outpost was attacked by over 200 Taliban fighters and his unit was seriously outnumbered in what would be one of the fiercest actions of the Afghan Campaign. According to his company commander, Specialist Mace fought valiantly from an exposed position with no regard for his own life. Stephan would earn the Bronze Star for gallantry in action that day. Who was this gallant Virginian? Stephan was a multi-sport athlete. He played Football, Basketball, Baseball and he loved Motor-Cross racing. He was a history buff and no doubt had an acute understanding of his difficult mission in the mountains of Afghanistan. Today we honor his courage in a land so far from his Virginia home. Specialist Mace's decorations include the Bronze Star, the Purple Heart and the Combat Action Badge.

Army Specialist Douglas J. Green fell while serving with the 3rd Battalion, 21st Infantry Regiment in the 1st Stryker Brigade Combat Team of the 25th Infantry Division. Specialist Green and his platoon were engaged by Taliban forces with small arms fire and IEDs in Sperwan Ghar of Afghanistan's Kandahar Province when he was lost. Specialist Green was on his second combat tour, with his first being in Iraq. In the cold and rugged mountains of Afghanistan, Doug was known for his warmth and the gift of bringing humor and hope to his brother infantrymen even in the toughest of times. Doug was one of those truly inspirational people who could raise the spirits and fortunes of others

through the strength of his personality and positive attitude. He is remembered for his selflessness and care for others. Indeed, while stationed in Alaska he volunteered many hours of his time with Big Brothers and Big Sisters. There can be no doubt that his selflessness and courage were on full display in Kandahar as well. Today we honor a hero with a unique gift to lift the spirits of those around him regardless of the circumstances. Specialist Green's decorations include the Bronze Star with V Device for Valor, the Purple Heart and the Combat Infantryman's Badge.

Marine Captain Michael M. Quin fell while serving with Marine Light Attack Helicopter Squadron 469 of the 3rd Marine Air Wing. Captain Quin, a UH-1 Yankee Pilot was flying a combat training mission in Yuma, Arizona one month prior to an upcoming deployment to Afghanistan when he was lost in a helicopter crash. Captain Quin was a 2006 graduate of the U.S. Naval Academy in Annapolis, Maryland. His loss reminds us of the risks our warriors take in training before they reach the combat zones they are destined for. Captain Quin lived life with a zest few can muster. He was a notable athlete playing soccer as well as track and field. His was also a life of service rarely seen. Michael became an Eagle Scout with Troop 29 and the Gazebo he built for his Eagle Project still stands today at Arndt's Lutheran Church. Mike was proud to be a U.S. Marine and wear the Gold Wings of a Marine Aviator. This morning we honor a gallant life of service from one of our Nation's best and brightest. Captain Quin's awards include the Navy Marine Corps Achievement Medal and the Global War on Terror Service Medal.

These four exceptional American warriors and patriots remind us that it isn't how long we live, but how we live. With this monument, we commit the valor of these four men to immortality. Fifty or a hundred years from now on another cool October morning, people will stop and read the names of:

Sergeant Scott Kirkpatrick

Specialist Stephan Mace

Specialist Douglas Green

Captain Michael Quin

And their Legend will live on . . .

Thank You and God Bless America.

HONORING RONA RAMON

HON. JIM COSTA

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, October 19, 2012

Mr. COSTA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the service of Rona Ramon, a teacher, healer, mother, friend and partner. Originally from Tel-Aviv, Rona served as a medic in a parachute unit with the Israeli army before earning a Bachelor's Degree in Physical Education at Wingate Institute and becoming a respected teacher. In 1986, Rona married Ilan Roman, an Israeli fighter pilot who later became Israel's first astronaut.

Logging over 4,000 flight hours over his 14-year career, Ilan was a highly respected Colonel in the Israeli Air Force. In 1981, he was the youngest pilot flying in Operation Opera, the successful Israeli mission to destroy a nuclear reactor being constructed in Iraq. Ilan continued to dedicate his life to science as a Payload Specialist astronaut by using a multi-spectral camera to record and study desert dust among other research projects. His commitment to the advancement of science has positively impacted the people of Israel, the

United States, and space exploration programs throughout the world.

The couple moved to Houston, TX, in 1998 and started a family. As Ilan trained for his space missions, Rona continued on a new adventure of her own: holistic medicine. The new surroundings gave Rona the opportunity to expand her knowledge of holistic medicine by studying new techniques, including the treatment of astronauts.

On February 1, 2003, tragedy struck when the space shuttle Columbia, carrying Ilan and 5 others, disintegrated upon re-entry. Columbia was commanded by Rick Husband, an alumnus of my alma mater, California State University, Fresno. Facing not only a personal, but also a national loss, Rona found herself in the midst of international events and memorials, representing not only herself, but the entire nation of Israel.

While still coping with the passing of her husband, Rona also lost her brother in a battle against leukemia. Shortly thereafter, Rona and her four beautiful children, Asaf, Tal, Yiftach and Noa, returned to Israel, where she found solace in her holistic healing practice and earned an MA in Holistic Health at Lesley College.

In 2009, Rona's eldest son Asaf, a gifted pilot, was tragically killed in an F-16 training accident. Once again, Rona was forced to deal with the death of a loved one, yet found the strength to continue her passion for helping others.

Today, Rona continues to inspire people across the world with her public speaking on loss and healing. She works with several organizations and foundations including her own Ramon Foundation, an organization that promotes educational and communal values through space and scientific studies.

On October 20, 2012, a film honoring Ilan titled "An Article of Hope," will be shown in Palo Alto, CA, with Rona speaking in memoriam of her husband. This special event will be held in remembrance of the Columbia disaster nearly 10 years ago.

Mr. Speaker, I ask that my colleagues join me in celebrating the strength and compassion of Rona Ramon, a woman who has turned tragedy into an opportunity to promote good throughout the world, and who continues to be an inspiration to myself and others.

HONORING MRS. OMEILA
MCKINNEY

HON. BENNIE G. THOMPSON

OF MISSISSIPPI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, October 19, 2012

Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor a remarkable librarian, Omeila McKinney. Omeila was born and reared on a plantation in Bourbon, Mississippi, to John Fred and Nancy Johnson. In January 1964 she and her family of five brothers and five sisters relocated to Mound Bayou, Mississippi where she resides today. She is a member of St. Mark Church of God in Christ in Mound Bayou, Mississippi. Her maternal grandparents Lem and Elsie Frye passed on a legacy of holiness that left the family without excuse when it comes to salvation. Her paternal grandparents Marshall, Sr. and Sarah were also devout people of God.

Omeila always liked to read even as a small child. Her dad taught her to read when she was three years old. He was a great supporter of his children obtaining an education even though he did not get his high school diploma until 1966. Her love for books led her to reading centers in elementary school where she read every book she could get her hands on and later to the library where she read so many books that the librarian gave her special permission to check out as many books as she liked. Upon graduating from Coahoma Junior College, in Clarksdale, Mississippi in 1969 with an Associates of Arts Degree in Social Studies, she furthered her education at Delta State College where she earned a Bachelor of Science in Education. She taught in Social Studies in the Quitman County School District while pursuing a master's degree at Delta State University in library science.

After receiving a master of library science degree in 1974 from Delta State University, Omeila McKinney began her career as a high school library media specialist at John F. Kennedy High School in Mound Bayou, Mississippi. She was a professional library media specialist who has a broad understanding of the educational system and works closely with teachers, administrators and students in selecting and evaluating materials to support the instructional program.

Omeila was dedicated to the children of John F. Kennedy High and made great strides toward educating them in the use of media such as reading, research, audiovisual production and many other useful instruments that would assist the students to succeed. Students were also given comprehensive test to measure their skills which they did excel.

In the early 1990s, she wrote a mini grant which she used to purchase the first multimedia computer in the Mound Bayou School District. Upon receiving the computer she was aware she did not know what to do with it. However, she was determined to learn and solicited two students who were avid computer users to give her lessons. She took that knowledge and later became one of the best computer users in the district using her knowledge to help her co-workers as well as many students.

After serving the Mound Bayou Public Schools for 26 years, she applied and was accepted to the North Bolivar School District in Shelby, Mississippi as their high school library media specialist. She continued the job she loved so much for another three years until her retirement in 2004. A year after retirement she took a position as branch librarian in Shelby, Mississippi at the public library. There she was helpful in bringing great improvements to the public library. After leaving the Shelby public library, Omeila returned to Broad Street High School in 2006 to work as a part time library media specialist. Her plan and goal was to help children improve their reading and research skills by utilizing the great resources of the library through fun and interactive activities.

Omeila uses her skills as a library media specialist in her role as the reading fair coordinator for the North Bolivar School District. Students she has worked with have won district, regional, and state honors for the past four years. She enjoys her job, students and her co-workers.

Omeila's profession as a librarian has had a positive impact on her husband of 37 years,

Claude McKinney. During Mr. McKinney's tenure as an educator he utilized research and other knowledge to enhance his students learning abilities. The couple has four children, Desmond, Sheri, Preamiller and Tanjanikia McKinney.

NORTHEAST COUNSELING
SERVICES

HON. LOU BARLETTA

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, October 19, 2012

Mr. BARLETTA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Northeast Counseling Services, which is celebrating its 40th anniversary of service to our community.

Northeast Counseling Services, founded on July 1, 1972, is a professional organization dedicated to improving quality of life by providing comprehensive and effective behavioral health services through a caring and responsive partnership with individuals, families, and the community. They serve our community as one of the largest providers of behavioral health services in Northeastern Pennsylvania.

Northeast Counseling Services offers a wide range of psychiatric services for children, adolescents, and adults including crisis intervention, intake and evaluation, inpatient and outpatient services, and intensive case management, among others. Northeast Counseling also offers emergency service available twenty-four hours a day, 7 days a week, including holidays. They have office locations in Nanticoke, Hazleton, and Lehighton.

Mr. Speaker, for the past forty years, Northeast Counseling Services has proudly served the people of Northeastern Pennsylvania. I commend the group on its 40th anniversary and wish it continued success.

COMMEMORATING THE 20TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE WATSONVILLE WETLANDS WATCH

HON. SAM FARR

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, October 19, 2012

Mr. FARR. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to call attention to the 20th Anniversary of the Watsonville Wetlands Watch, which is a remarkable community organization in my district. Dedicated to the protection, restoration, and appreciation of the wetlands of the Pajaro Valley, this group engages members of the Watsonville community and students of the Pajaro Valley Unified School District, drawing public attention to the rich uplands and dependent area wildlife.

Fed by the waters of the Pajaro Valley watershed, and linked together by nine species of fish and 250 species of birds, including many that are threatened or endangered, the six Sloughs of the Watsonville slough system form one of the largest remaining freshwater marshlands in the state's coastal zone. These Sloughs provide nursing grounds for fish and wildlife. Aquatic plants filter out impurities in the water, sequester carbon dioxide, and provide a buffer from land to sea—protecting water quality from impacts of soil erosion and

protecting the land from the impacts of flooding. They also provide recreational opportunities.

Through the coordinated efforts of the Watsonville Wetlands Watch, hundreds of docents and volunteers are involved in green house native plant production and actively involved restoration work, attending regular monthly "Restoration Day" events. Through these efforts, and in collaboration with the city of Watsonville and the Pajaro Valley Unified School District, Watsonville Wetlands Watch has supported a deep connection between the community of the Pajaro Valley and a healthy environment and watershed. Over the past 20 years, the Watsonville Wetlands Watch has grown from a small all-volunteer group doing slough cleanups, into the dynamic organization which we have today.

Mr. Speaker, I applaud the many accomplishments of the Watsonville Wetlands Watch, and I am proud to be associated with this vital work.

HONORING THE SERVICE AND SACRIFICE OF SECOND LIEUTENANT JAMES DES JARDIN

HON. REID J. RIBBLE

OF WISCONSIN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, October 19, 2012

Mr. RIBBLE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor a fallen hero who has finally come home. Our experience is different than it would have been had Second Lieutenant James Des Jardin been found in 1944. James' parents had already buried one son, and now would have been burying another. Grief and sadness was the companion for this family on that December day in 1944.

Just three days after Christmas, the family was told of James missing in action with a letter. And I think you should know that similar letters were sent to over 73,000 families during the war saying that their loved one was missing. Our nation paid a heavy price to bring freedom to the world.

I cannot imagine the horror of hearing that news. More than that, I cannot fathom the uncertainty of a family not knowing. James' brother Earl, a bomber pilot, had already been killed in service to our country, in France just two months before, and now another son was missing.

Was James a POW? Was he hiding in Germany and working his way home? Did he perish that day? Or later? These are the questions that no parent, no brother or sister or son or daughter ever wants to ask. But these questions had to be asked. They provided hope. They provided encouragement. . . . but they also provide doubt and despair.

The questions certainly lingered. The sacrifice of the family, quietly held in their hearts and thoughts, and the yearning to know. December 28, 1944, and the years that followed, certainly brought heartache, that unless you have experienced it personally must have been difficult to understand.

So finally today brings closure. We get to lay to rest Second Lieutenant James Des Jardin—An American hero. Today we get thank a family for their sacrifice. Today we get to, and I know this is a bit odd to say and maybe a bit odd for you to hear, but today we

get to celebrate a hero and a hero's family. We as a community join with this family to share not just in grief but in joy of knowing our hero is finally home.

It's certainly different today than it would have been for the Des Jardin family in 1944. Today instead of mourning a fallen hero we celebrate his homecoming.

Today the family's questions have been answered and so have ours. Today an American hero is welcomed home and laid to rest. May God Bless the family and in His time provide the same closure for our Nation's other MIA families.

Thank you to the Des Jardin family for your sacrifice and thank you for including me today.

NATIONAL DOMESTIC VIOLENCE AWARENESS MONTH

HON. JANICE D. SCHAKOWSKY

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, October 19, 2012

Ms. SCHAKOWSKY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of victims of domestic violence and in recognition of October as Domestic Violence Awareness Month. For far too long, domestic violence victims have been ignored, afraid to speak up, and scared of being stigmatized. Battered immigrant women have been particularly vulnerable to domestic violence due to their temporary immigration status or lack of status. These women often suffer in silence because they fear threats of deportation, fear being separated from their children, and are afraid to come out of the shadows.

We have made significant progress in both reducing incidents of domestic violence and in offering support to victims. Eighteen years ago, Vice President BIDEN led the bipartisan effort to enact the Violence Against Women Act. As we all know, VAWA has strengthened communities and provided critical, life-saving support to victims of domestic violence, including battered immigrant women.

Obamacare expands access to critical domestic violence services. Under Obamacare, health insurers must provide women with access to domestic violence screening and counseling services without any cost-sharing and they cannot charge higher premiums to victims of domestic violence. This eliminates cost as a barrier to accessing these important services.

Nonprofit organizations are also doing inspiring work to aid victims of domestic violence. One such organization is Second Chance Employment Services. I want to recognize the extraordinary work done by this organization, and its founder Dr. Ludy Green. SCES offers survivors of domestic violence counseling and individualized job training services. SCES provides these women with both emotional support and the resources needed for financial security.

Despite all of these efforts, we still have a long way to go. Every day, three women in the United States die as a result of domestic violence. We must do everything we can to combat these unconscionable acts and support victims of this horrible crime. As the President noted in his Proclamation in honor of National Domestic Violence Awareness Month of 2012, "Let us renew our efforts to support victims of

domestic violence in their time of greatest need, and to realize an America where no one lives in fear because they feel unsafe in their own home."

In recognition of Domestic Violence Awareness Month, we all must recommit to continuing to fight for all survivors of domestic violence. We must all work together to reauthorize VAWA before the end of this Congress and ensure that we expand rather than erode protections for all victims of domestic violence. I urge my Republican colleagues to pass the bipartisan Senate bill, which passed the Senate on April 26 by a more than 2-1 vote, so that we can expand rather than roll back protections for victims of domestic violence.

HONORING KINARD & MYLES TRUE GOSPEL PRODUCTIONS

HON. BENNIE G. THOMPSON

OF MISSISSIPPI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, October 19, 2012

Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi. Mr. Speaker, I rise to recognize a remarkable team, Mr. Johnny Kinard and the Reverend Marvin Myles, together they are Kinard & Myles True Gospel Productions, Inc. They have been in business for over twenty years in a promotional partnership showcasing some of this nation's finest gospel acts and artists alike.

Kinard and Myles believed there was no need for two promoters in a region as small as theirs and that they could expand their horizons if they joined in partnership. The competition was tough in the region and that is what drove them into their partnership. Kinard was inspired by Early Wright, so he started recruiting local artists to perform in February, in observance of "Black History Month," and this tradition has lasted thirty years. Every year now, this annual event it is headlined by some of the biggest names in the field but it is the local groups that are the center of attraction. Kinard gives much credit to the success of this event to the community of churches. Beyond marketing through the church's network it is the nurturing of talent within these congregations, whether they are soloist, groups or choirs making gospel music entertainment in demand.

Johnny Kinard is also a radio personality; he is simulcast on KJIW-94.5, WJIW-104.7, and KCAT-1340, every Thursday from 8 p.m. until 11 p.m. and on the internet at www.lordrgdio.com, where he reaches over a million listeners. The Mississippi Broadcasting Network named him the number one Gospel Music Promoter. Johnny Kinard is the recipient of the 2007 Mississippi Gospel Radio Announcer of the Year Award.

Over the years, Kinard & Myles True Gospel Production, Inc. was very good at booking local acts, working with other events and hosting concerts but on December 30, 2006, they had their greatest challenge, the Pre-New Year's Eve "Gospel Jamboree" at the 4000-seating accommodation Pinnacle Gymnasium on the campus of Coahoma Community College in Clarksdale, Mississippi. The biggest names in the field of traditional quartet gospel music and Grammy Award winners were present. These were such groups as The Mighty Clouds of Joy, Lee Williams & Spiritual QCs, the Five Blind Boys of Mississippi and

Alabama, the Jackson Southernaires, the Pilgrim Jubilees, Doc McKenzie & The Hi-Lites, the Violinaires, The Gospel Keynotes and the list went on. Even the great Early Wright, Johnny's mentor had never attempted such an undertaking. Failure to deliver a "great show" could destroy any gospel promoter's reputation. The task of trying to persuade businesses to sponsor gospel, not blues, and sell

four thousand tickets at twenty to fifty dollars a "pop" tested this two-man operation to the max. The team, Kinard and Myles, believed that with God all things are possible; they said "We called it faith" and when applied properly it works every time. Dr. Vivian Presley, President of Coahoma Community College, attended the event and confirmed it was the first

time a concert of any kind had sold out at the college.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing Mr. Johnny Kinard and Reverend Marvin Myles of Kinard & Myles True Gospel Production on their work of putting Traditional Quartet Gospel Music at the forefront of American Music, again.